

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
MEETING ROOM #113
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1999
8:15 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Chair
Kathy Campbell
Linda Steinman
Bob Workman

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Michael Thurber, Corrections Director
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

Heier opened the Board of Corrections meeting.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 29, 1999 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING

MOTION: Campbell moved and Steinman seconded approval of the minutes. On call Workman, Steinman, Campbell and Heier voted aye. Hudkins was absent. Motion carried.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

Michael Thurber, Corrections Director, briefly reviewed population statistics for the jail and the Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF)(Exhibit G), noting that the average daily population is 112.

3 LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Thurber noted that LB695, which went into effect July 1, 1999 concerns reimbursement to counties for holding state prisoners. He said in the first 3 months following the effective date, Corrections will collect \$31,200 based on a \$35 per day reimbursement.

Thurber reported LB333 addresses the return of unused medications to pharmacies for credit. He said the Bill's definition of eligible institutions for this practice apparently excludes the Corrections Department.

He also said LB112 establishes guidelines for the determination of agency responsibility for medical bills incurred by offenders. The original intent of the Bill was to place primary responsibility on the offender. The language indicates that responsibility will flow to other agencies, primarily insurance carriers and welfare agencies when eligible, then to government agencies, including the arresting agency or Corrections. Thurber said Corrections is exploring ways to ascertain if offenders have medical insurance.

4 OTHER ITEMS

Jail Standards Inspections

Thurber said both facilities received their annual inspection by State Jail Standards and both facilities were found to be in compliance with all standards.

Health Department Inspections

He said both facilities were inspected by Health Department professionals. Violations in the jail's kitchen involved small utensils needing replacement due to wear and insufficient air-drying of pots and pans. He said all small utensils involved have been replaced.

Computer Systems

Thurber said the original processing estimate for the new inmate information system falls far short of actual activity. He said along with planned improvements to the system involving automation of prisoner accounting and movement, FY2000 costs may exceed budgets projected by Information Services by \$115,000. He said the estimate is based on 6 months of actual processing costs.

LCF Construction Program Activities

Thurber reported equipment and records moves were completed for the County Attorney's Office and Region V during this quarter. The majority of construction activities were involved in the remodeling at the Detox Center to provide office and program space at that location. He also noted construction crews are utilized in the maintenance of both facilities on an ongoing basis. They are currently preparing to facilitate the moves of agencies into the Justice and Law Enforcement Center.

Offender Transport

Thurber said during the third quarter, 2,347 offenders were transported by Corrections staff to the various Courts. He said another 106 were taken to other locations, including State facilities, medical agencies, Crisis Center, and DPI. Approximately 65% of all Court appearances are transported to County Courtroom #10 which is located within the jail facility.

Outside Contracts

Thurber reported several bidders have responded to the County-wide pharmaceutical services RFP showing interest in the Corrections portion of the project. Several out-of-state vendors proposed very cost-effective programs; however, the exclusion of Corrections from eligibility to return unused medications and some guidelines covering the use of emergency medication stocks could prohibit the use of the vendors.

Recruitment/Training Activities

Thurber said 102 individuals were screened and/or interviewed for 7 full-time correctional officer positions hired. He said three initial training sessions were held for five new full-time correctional positions. They also held training on emergency procedures for existing staff. Thurber also said his training staff coordinated the operation of the Department's State Fair booth, where 2,731 children were fingerprinted.

Jail Activities

Thurber reported work is progressing on the remodel of the jail's elevator to provide a secure entrance between the jail and the Justice and Law Enforcement Center. He said cameras and intercoms will be added as part of the Justice project so that control center staff can monitor and control entrance to the skywalk.

He also indicated he has requested the Jail's current loading dock be critiqued and redesigned to provide adequate delivery without hindering traffic in this area. The redesign may also provide additional parking spaces.

5 NEW BUSINESS

ADAM (Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring) Project

Thurber noted application paperwork has been forwarded to the National Institute of Justice to become an ADAM site. He said he will be providing the Board with a proposal for review and possible approval for a Bureau of Justice assistance grant for a case counselor to work with the mentally ill offenders who are in custody.

LCF Air Conditioning System

Thurber reported plans for a ground-loop air conditioning system have been developed and are currently being reviewed by Lincoln Electric System. He said he met with the Airport Authority to discuss the provision for additional land to install the ground-looped system. An extension to the lease has been proposed.

6 ADJOURNMENT

At the direction of the chair, the Board of Corrections meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk